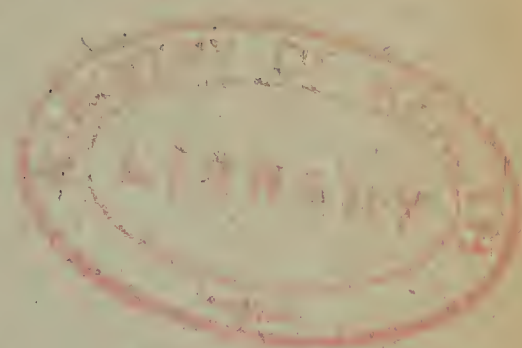


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RURAL DISTRICT OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937.

A. H. King, The Avon Press, Fordingbridge.

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my sixth Annual Report of the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District, which is for the year 1937.

The figures and data set forth in this Report will be found to provide a concise summary of the vital statistics and sanitary activities relative to your District in 1937.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Bounded on the north by the County of Wiltshire, on the west by the County of Dorset, and on the south by the Borough of Christchurch, the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge in the County of Hampshire covers an area of 90,140 acres, or approximately 140 square miles, and includes the valleys of the River Avon and its tributary the River Allen, and a considerable area of the most beautiful part of the New Forest. The climate, on account of the considerable extent of open forest and heathlands and rich riverside meadows, is particularly salubrious, and since the area is contiguous to the south coast is mild during the winter months.

The District contains sixteen parishes containing a population of close upon 19,000 persons, about half of whom live in the two towns of Ringwood and of Fordingbridge. The main occupation of the population is agricultural, and there is also a considerable residential population consisting of retired professional and other persons, particularly in the parish of Burley, who are attracted to the area on account of its equable climate and its many facilities for golf, hunting, and other out-door recreations.

The staple industry is dairy-farming and pig-farming, and a considerable amount of the milk supply for London and other towns is produced in the District by contract with the large Dairy Companies.

In my Report for 1935 will be found a Table giving the acreage, population, and rateable values of each of the sixteen parishes which comprise the District.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health.—Dr. C. CONYERS MORRELL, D.P.H. Part time (not engaged in private practice); also holds part-time appointments as Medical Officer of Health for Borough of Christchurch, and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.—R. A. SKELTON; also Meat, Food and Petroleum Inspector, and Drainage Works Manager. Whole time appointment. Holds Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute as follows:—Sanitary Inspector; Meat Inspector; Smoke Inspector and Sanitary Science.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.—R. A. UPSTONE; also Building Byelaws Surveyor and Housing Estates Manager. Holds Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board.

Contributions to the salaries of the above Officers are made under the Local Government Act, 1933.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1937.

Area (in acres) 90,140. Population, Census 1931—18,217.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books—5,641.

Rateable value at 1st October, 1937—£108,722. Estimated Sum represented by a 1d. rate, 1937-38—£449 11s.

Registrar-General's estimate of Population for purposes of vital statistics—18,690. (Comparability factor—0·77).

	Total	Males	Females
Live Births—Legitimate	249	132	117
Illegitimate	11	4	7

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—13·9.

	Total	Males	Females
Still-births—Legitimate	9	6	3
Illegitimate	2	2	0

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—40·59.

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths 	221	115	106

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—11·82.

Deaths from puerperal causes—			Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
	Deaths		
Puerperal sepsis ...	1		3·69
Other puerperal causes	1		3·69
Total 	2		7·38

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births—23·07.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births—23·07.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births—0·0.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—29.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—0.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—2.

Cancer accounted for 13·1 per cent. of all deaths. There were, during 1937, 29 deaths attributed to this cause, of which 17 were males and 12 were females. Thirteen deaths were attributed to Influenza. Three cases of Suicide were recorded. Maternal Mortality Rate—7·38; for England and Wales—3·23.

Of all deaths occurring in your District approximately 60 per cent. of male deaths and 70 per cent. of female deaths occurred at ages over 70 years; while of all deaths, over 25 per cent., or more than one quarter, occurred over the age of 80 years. The mean age at death for males was 69·5 years, and for females 70·9 years.

In the following Table is shown the Seasonal Distribution of Deaths of males and of females, and the Mean Age at Death in each quarter of the year.

Per cent. Quarterly	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
Male deaths	26·3	20·0	19·0	34·7
Female deaths	33·7	20·4	16·3	29·6
Combined	30·0	20·2	17·6	32·2
Mean Age at Death Quarterly				
Males	73	72	69	66
Females	73	71	60	74

From this Table it will be observed that the first or Spring Quarter was most fatal to females, and the Winter Quarter most fatal to males; while in the case of both males and females the Autumn Quarter was least fatal, and the mean age at death of both males and females was lowest in this Quarter.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1933 to 1937.—Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge, and for England and Wales.

Year	R.D. Ringwood and Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.
1933	13·1	13·7	53·7	14·4	12·3	64
1934	13·4	12·2	41·0	14·8	11·8	59
1935	13·2	12·1	32·8	14·7	11·7	57
1936	13·3	13·1	48·2	14·8	12·1	59
1937	13·9	11·8	23·1	14·9	12·4	58

From this Table you will observe that while the Birth-rate has continued to be practically stationary, a slight fall in the crude Death-rate has occurred, and this in spite of the fact that there was an appreciable excess over 1936 in the number of deaths from Influenza and Pneumonia.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is the lowest on record for your District since its formation by the amalgamation of the Ringwood Rural District, the Fordingbridge Rural District, and a part of the Christchurch Rural District, which was effected in 1932 under the County of Southampton Review Order. The rate is less than half that for England and Wales as a whole. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the whole Administrative County of Southampton for 1937 was 40·9, that for Urban Districts being 38·22, and that for Rural Districts 44·67. Six infant deaths only were registered in your District, of which three were attributable to Prematurity. This is highly satisfactory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937—

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	7	7	0
Scarlet Fever	15	9	0
Enteric Fever	2	1	0
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	0
Erysipelas	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1
Pneumonia	14	2	7

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES.

Age Periods Years	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia
Under 1	3	0	0	0	0	1
5	1	2	0	0	0	2
10	1	4	0	0	0	0
15	0	3	0	1	0	0
20	1	0	1	0	0	3
35	1	4	1	0	0	3
45	0	2	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	1	1
65	0	0	0	0	3	2
Over 65	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals ...	7	15	2	1	4	14

One case of Ophthalmia neonatorum was notified during the year, no untoward result.

Of the two cases of Enteric Fever notified, one case was discharged from Hospital after twelve days as not Enteric; the other case was that of an official recently returned to this country from the East.

In the following Table is shown the number of cases notified in each in the past five years; estimated populations are also shown for each year.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE FIVE YEARS, 1933 to 1937, R.D. of Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Enteric Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Erysipelas	Population
1933	27	21	2	0	0	7	18,390
1934	41	20	3	0	0	5	18,360
1935	13	7	2	1	1	4	18,500
1936	9	5	0	3	0	3	18,640
1937	15	7	1	2	1	4	18,690

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality during 1937—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
5	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1
25	1	2	...	..	...	2	...	...
35	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
45	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	..
55	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals ...	5	5	1	4	4	4	1	1

Notification is efficient. There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Mains of the West Hampshire Water Company now supply practically the whole of your District, with the exception of some part of the area in the extreme north and a few outlying areas in other parts of your District.

By courtesy of the Manager of the West Hampshire Water Company, Mr. D. Llewellyn, I have been afforded the opportunity

to inspect the whole of the dual monthly reports of analyses carried out upon the Company's water supply. I am able to say that throughout the year these have without exception exhibited the same high degree of purity of water both bacteriological and chemical. This is most satisfactory. In my last Report, that for 1936, are to be found details of the technical processes whereby purification is brought about, and I have no hesitation in saying that every possible precaution is taken to ensure at all times the absolute purity of this water supply. The plant is one of the most modern and efficient in the United Kingdom.

Main water supply was first extended from the town of Ringwood to the town of Fordingbridge and its environs in 1935, and during the past two years a very large number of connections therewith have been made. There yet remain, however, a considerable number of dwellings in this area which depend for their water supply upon shallow wells within their curtilages; these wells are in many cases of such a nature that they are liable to surface and sub-soil pollution and consequently are a potential danger to health. Many samples from these wells have been taken during 1937 and the present year, and of these 34 per cent., or one-third, have been found to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. In most cases where the water has been found to be polluted owners have been persuaded to connect dwellings with the main supply. No effort is being spared by your Sanitary Department to bring about as rapidly as possible extension of connections to the mains wherever shallow wells exist, and I am hopeful that before long all dwellings in the town of Fordingbridge and its environs, wherever main water conduits are available, will be so supplied.

A pure, ample, and constant water supply is one of the primary essentials of modern sanitation, and so long as dwellers in urbanised or semi-urbanised areas continue to depend upon shallow wells for their water supply, so long will they lay themselves and their neighbours open to the increasing risk of outbreaks of water-borne infections, in particular, epidemic diarrhœa, dysentery, paratyphoid, and typhoid fever. In the area of Fordingbridge this risk is increased considerably by the fact that no main sewerage as yet exists, with the result that the existing shallow wells are constantly liable to dangerous sub-soil pollution from nearby cesspits and surface contamination from the burial of night-soil in their close proximity. To continue to depend upon these old and in many cases ill-constructed shallow wells, when a pure water supply is readily available, is nothing less than the height of folly.

The flippant argument so frequently exploited that persons have consumed such water all their lives and have lived to a good old age implies a very profound ignorance of the most elementary laws of bacteriology, of epidemecity, and of the laws of chance. This same argument was used in the past with regard to the water supplies of the Metropolis and of other towns, and

consequent inaction, indifference, and apathy led to the highly fatal and disastrous cholera and dysenteric outbreaks which disgrace the sanitary and administrative history of the period.

The fact that in the comparatively short time since the amalgamation of Rural Districts in 1932 to form the present extensive District, your Council has spared no effort and has been successful in bringing about the availability of a pure, constant and wholesome water supply to the great majority of your inhabitants is a highly creditable one. It now remains for all house-holders, especially in the town of Fordingbridge, to avail themselves of the facilities which are at their disposal, and so remove for all time the ever present potential risk of water-borne infections.

SANITATION.

Refuse Disposal—

The disposal of refuse on the twelve official dumps in the District has been carried out in a satisfactory manner, and elimination of rats has continued to be effective. No nuisance has arisen. I am hopeful that in due course your Council may decide to replace the present horse-drawn refuse carts by modern motor-drawn refuse vans.

There is a tendency in certain parts of your District for domestic and other refuse to be disposed of by private individuals dumping this on waste spaces near to their dwellings. This practice is highly undesirable, and under certain circumstances, especially when close to main roads, can give rise to serious nuisance and is most unsightly. In one instance a considerable amount of refuse was persistently dumped on to a bank of the river Avon near to a main road, causing not only an evil sight to those travelling along the road, but also pollution of the river at a point not greatly distant from the intake of the West Hampshire Water Company. Action was taken by your Council and a Notice affixed prohibiting such dumping with satisfactory result. This practice of private individuals establishing unofficial dumps is highly pernicious and must cease.

While considerable improvement has taken place in the method of storage of domestic refuse awaiting removal since my comments upon this matter in my Report for 1932, cases still occur where no proper impervious covered receptacles are used. I would once again draw attention to the fact that under the provisions of the Public Health Acts proceedings may be taken and a penalty imposed in cases where improper storage of refuse gives rise to nuisance or is prejudicial to health. I regard the improper storage of household refuse as one of the most serious menaces to the public health, especially during the summer months, and I shall have no hesitation in advising your Council to take action under the Public Health Acts in cases of nuisance arising therefrom.

Sewerage--

On visits made by me at irregular times to your Disposal Works at Moortown, I have invariably found the works to be well conducted and functioning in a satisfactory manner.

FORDINGBRIDGE SANITATION.

In another part of this Report I have referred to the sanitary connection between water supplies in the town of Fordingbridge and the present existing system of conservancy, and I have stressed the advantage to inhabitants of this town of availing themselves of main water supply. In this connection one very unfortunate fact exists, and this is that the town of Fordingbridge still remains without main sewerage, and I had almost hesitated under the circumstances in advising that dwellers in this town should hasten to avail themselves of the main water supply, had it not been for the fact that a considerable number of shallow wells has recently been found to be polluted, in some cases seriously.

It is an elementary principle of modern sanitary practice that wherever main water supply is installed there should also be simultaneously installed main sewerage. Main water supply invariably brings about a far larger use of water for all domestic purposes than when water has to be drawn onerously from domestic wells. This is all to the good and assists materially in vastly improving domestic sanitation, quite apart from personal comfort and safety from water-borne infection. The larger amount of water, however, necessarily used throws considerable strain upon small cess-pits such as are common in the town of Fordingbridge, and, moreover, may easily cause overflow of these and pollution of surrounding ground with consequent serious danger to health. Such overflow may further find its way into surface water drains where such exist, and so bring about not only exceedingly unpleasant but also dangerous pollution of natural water-courses in the neighbourhood. This in fact has actually frequently occurred.

In the Fordingbridge area there exists a population of close upon 4,000 persons inhabiting approximately one thousand dwellings, all of which are dependent upon cess-pits or worse for their sanitation. In very many cases the curtilages of these dwellings, particularly in the town of Fordingbridge, are small and quite inconsistent with safety, and I know at least one case in the main street where, there being no garden, the cess-pit is actually beneath the floor of the dwelling.

I would press that the somewhat prolonged deliberations upon the question of providing this town and area with main sewerage be brought to an early conclusion, and that the matured scheme which your Council has in being should be put in hand without further delay.

NUISANCE.—*Keeping of Ducks.*

Action was taken in the matter of a long continued and serious nuisance arising from the keeping of a large number of ducks in the close vicinity of inhabited dwellings in a residential part of your District. Failure to comply with a Notice served to abate the nuisance led to legal proceedings being taken by your Council, which resulted in an order of the Court to abate the nuisance by limiting the number of ducks kept and a fine being imposed with costs.

SWIMMING BATHS.

No Swimming Bath is now in use in the District. A Swimming Bath formerly in use in connection with a Road House on the Fordingbridge Road was closed in 1937 by the Proprietor for sanitary reasons and has not been in use during the year.

HOUSING.

Many small villas and bungalow-type houses have continued to be erected by private enterprise suitable to the requirements of the working classes and of retired persons of limited means, and which meet the main requirements of healthful living.

As has been the case in many other agricultural areas, no rapid growth of population has occurred during the past few years, with the result that no serious actual numerical shortage of housing appears to arise in your District. Nevertheless, the type of housing calls for special attention. While the great majority of houses call for no special comment, there yet exist old and small dwellings which either on account of their structure, or on account of bad arrangement, or on account of disrepair, fail, and in some cases seriously fail, to meet present day standards of habitability. Broadly, these fall into two categories: the first, small groups of dwellings in the two towns of Ringwood and of Fordingbridge which remain as relics of the mid-Victorian period of bad-planning and jerry-building, and which cannot be regarded as healthful habitations; the second, individual old-time cottages, many of mud and timber construction, scattered throughout the District, which while possibly commensurate with standards of domesticity in past times must to-day be regarded as quite unsatisfactory, chiefly on account of defects such as smallness of rooms, lowness of ceilings, narrowness and steepness of stairways, lack of sufficient lighting and ventilation, inadequacy of kitchen, scullery and larder accommodation, and in some cases general dampness, and inadequate or crude sanitary arrangements.

The matter of these dwellings has received, I know, your constant and most careful attention, and appreciable progress has been made in bringing about general improvement in the housing of your area either by demolition orders or by enforcing structural repair. I am anxious that continuation of this active policy may

result in bringing about accelerated improvement of housing conditions, and I would ask that the same energetic measures which have resulted in obtaining for your District immense improvement in its water supplies may now be applied to securing for your inhabitants, especially for the rural workers, the same happy facilities for healthful and comfortable living.

Whereas cases of individual dwellings conveniently fall within Sections 9 and 11 of the Housing Act, certain groups of dwellings to which I have referred are of such a character that they call for your serious consideration as Clearance Areas, and it appears improbable that they can otherwise satisfactorily be dealt with. Moreover, in my opinion, the tendency which arises to attempt to render old and small cottages fit by means of minor structural alterations and repairs is frequently not wholly satisfactory, since although such repair may possibly render the dwellings technically fit, the results frequently fall considerably short of providing the desideratum for really healthful habitation, in particular with respect to size of rooms, the permanent prevention of dampness, and adequate provision of sculleries and sinks.

The economic, social, and psychological factors which tend year by year to deplete rural agricultural areas by driving younger members of the population into towns and cities are necessarily very diverse and complex, and this constant migration has the dysgenic effect, partly through overcrowding of urban areas and partly through inadaptability of rural stock to urban life and conditions, of raising the quota of unemployment and discontent, and in due course lowering the general standard of national physique and morale. It is incumbent that every endeavour be made to counteract this by encouraging the younger rural population to thrive and maintain themselves in their native healthful environment; to this end the provision of healthful, commodious and attractive dwellings forms one of the most important contributory factors.

I now beg to append Mr. R. A. Upstone's Report upon housing during 1937.

Housing Statistics for the Year 1937.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	540
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	661
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	62
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	112
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	147
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	297

2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	31
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—				
(a) By owners	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—		
(a) By Owners	...	4
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders...	...	...	...	...	14

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	None
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	None

4.—*Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

		Houses	Tents, etc.
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	16	11 27
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	16	11 27
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	123	46 169
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	4	— 4
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	11	2 13
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	79	10 89

325 Inspections were made during the year in connection with the overcrowding provision of the Housing Act, 1936.

HOUSING SURVEY.

A Survey of Working Class Houses was carried out in the District during the year, superficial inspections only being made. 426 dwellings (including 16 tents, vans and sheds, and 7 partially derelict empty houses) were found to be unfit for human habitation and have been classified as follows:—

(a) Dwellings which were unworthy of renovation and should be demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
(b) Dwellings which were capable of being rendered fit if properly reconditioned, remodelled and renovated	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
(c) Dwellings which could be rendered fit by ordinary works of repair	...	...	...	...	...	...	281

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I now beg to submit to you Mr. R. A. Skelton's Annual Report for 1937 of the work carried out in his department.

The many data contained therein provide evidence of the continuous and unrelaxing control exercised by him in all matters appertaining to maintenance of good sanitation in your District. In particular, special attention has been given to the many shallow wells still in use in the Fordingbridge area, and a wide survey of these which he inaugurated during 1937 has already resulted in disuse of a number of unsatisfactory wells and connection of dwellings to main water conduits.

I wish again most cordially to thank him for his valuable assistance and co-operation on all matters of technical sanitation, and especially for the very valuable concise and detailed reports which he invariably submits to me in every case of infectious disease which are models of what such reports should be.

Supervision of Milk Supply.

Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1915.

Applications received to Register as Producers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Applications received to Register as Retailers	...	...	...	...	...	0
No. of Herds sampled under County Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	42
No. of Herds found tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	39
No. of samples found tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	6

Further samples are taken from the tuberculous herds by the County Veterinary Inspector.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1925—

No. of licenses issued by the local authority during 1936 under the above order	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licenses for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation	...	...	...	...	...	...	None

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1934—

The number of Accredited and "Tuberculin Tested" Licenses granted by the County Council to producers in this District as from the 1st January, 1938, was 62.

A license to sell Milk in bulk by wholesale as "Grade A (Tuberculin tested)" was granted by the Ministry of Health to one producer in the District.

Farms—

No. of Dairy Farms	...	...	...	...	...	...	280
Approximate number of Cows in the district	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,400

Cowkeepers—

No. of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms)	275
No. of inspections during the year	350

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers)—

No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) ...	7
No. on Register	7

Dairies and Milk Shops. These are inspected about once a quarter. Their condition is very good.

Public Health, Slaughter House, and Meat Regulations Order, 1924.

There are Twenty premises registered or licensed as slaughter-houses on regular days during the week. 20

Others wishing to slaughter notify the Chief Sanitary Inspector of day and time.

This has been dealt with satisfactorily. One case of failure to give Notice of Intention to Slaughter was dealt with during the year.

Sanitary Administration.

Summary of Sanitary Work done during year 1937 :

		Number of Inspec- tions	Defects found	Abatement Notices served	Nuis- ances abated	Nuis- ances unabated
Dwelling Houses—						
Foul Conditions	..	45	9	1	8	1
Ashpits, Privies & W.C's		50	4	0	4	0
House Drainage	..	65	22	2	22	0
Dairies and Milkshops	..	70	8	0	8	0
Cowsheds	..	350	17	0	16	1
Slaughterhouses	..	130	2	0	2	0
Deposits of Refuse & Manure		30	7	0	7	0
Pigstyes	..	10	1	0	1	0
Other Nuisances	..	20	8	1	8	0
Bakehouses	..	110	8	0	8	0
Factories and Workshops	..	20	5	0	5	0
Public Health—						
Slaughter House and Meat Regulation Order		20	2	1	2	0
		920	93	5	91	2

Houses Disinfected .. 46

Samples of Water taken and
submitted 13

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No complaints as to bed bugs were received, and no action was found necessary during the year.

GENERAL.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector disinfects premises with Formalin after all cases of Infectious Disease. Bedding is disinfected with steam.

Action under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act and the Milk and Cream Regulation is arranged for by the County Medical Officer.

No specialised Inspector (e.g., Food Inspector) is employed by the District Council.

Water Supply.—The parishes of Burley, Christchurch East, Fordingbridge, Ringwood, St. Leonards and St. Ives, and Sopley, and parts of the parishes of Ellingham, and Harbridge and Ibsley have a piped supply. At the time of making this Report, extensions of the supply to the parishes of Rockbourne and Whitsbury were being carried out. The outside area is supplied by Wells.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The town of Ringwood has a Sewerage System. Outside area by Cesspools and large gardens.

There is no deficiency, and no improvements contemplated, except that a system of sewerage is being considered for Fordingbridge.

Closet Accommodation.—Conversions during year 1937.

No. of privy closets	{	To fresh w.c.'s	nil.
		To waste w.c.'s	nil.
		To pails, etc.	nil.
No. of pail closets	{	To fresh w.c.'s	1.
		To waste w.c.'s	none known.
No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s			nil.

There are practically no fixed receptacles as ashpits.

There are practically no privy middens in the District. W.C.'s have been substituted in nearly all cases for pail closets in the sewered area.

Closet accommodation provided for *new* property :—

For houses within the sewered area—all w.c.'s.

For houses outside the area—

Large and medium houses—w.c.'s.

Cottages—some w.c.'s and some pails.

House Scavenging.

Ringwood Parish.

Ashes removed once per week.

Tins, etc. ,, ,, month.

Fordingbridge Parish.

Ashes removed once per week.

Tins, etc. ,, ,, month.

Night soil twice per week.

Burley Parish. St. Leonards and St. Ives Parish.

Tins, etc., removed once per month.

Damerham Parish. Martin Parish. Whitsbury Parish.

Tins, etc., removed once per quarter.

Christchurch E. Parish. Woodgreen Parish.

Tin Dump provided in each parish.

The above appears to be satisfactory.

The refuse is disposed of—

Tins and ashes by controlled dumping.
Night soil ploughed into land.

Rivers and Streams.

These are periodically cleared of weeds, which lessens the liability of flooding of the low-lying parts of the district. Parts of Ringwood and Fordingbridge were liable to flooding, but the Avon and Stour Catchment Board have recently cleaned out the river bed and this appears to have remedied the flooding.

At Ringwood, parts of the Poulner, Bickerley, and New Street areas have been flooded, due chiefly to defective road drainage, and the County Council are now making improvements.

R. A. SKELTON, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

MILK CONTROL AND PASTEURISATION.

In my Reports for the years 1933 and 1934 I drew special attention to requirements for clean and wholesome milk supply, and in my last Report, that for 1936, I detailed at some length the serious dangers accruing from consumption of unpasteurised milk, and supported my statements with concrete illustrations of two recent widespread and fatal outbreaks of milk-borne infections. To those outbreaks, one of Typhoid Fever affecting 718 persons, the other of Scarlet Fever and Sore Throat affecting 364 persons, most of whom were children, and together accounting for no less than 54 deaths, almost entirely of young persons, must now be added two further outbreaks.

The first, an outbreak of food-poisoning conveyed by raw milk which occurred in Wiltshire. This was due to an organism of the *Salmonella* type giving rise to very acute gastro-enteritis symptoms, which undoubtedly gained access to the milk from the dung of three infected cows. Over 100 persons, chiefly children supplied with milk in schools, were attacked, but fortunately no fatal case occurred. The second occurred in January in the present year in Bedfordshire, where an outbreak of dysentery, due to the *Sonne* bacillus conveyed by raw milk affected 59 households in which 96 individuals became infected. Pasteurisation was carried out and no further cases occurred. Fortunately none was fatal.

Thus we have two more illustrations of the serious consequences and danger of raw milk consumption.

To the risk of infections such as Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Dysentery, and Food-poisoning being conveyed by raw milk, must be added that of Tuberculosis, the active organisms of which in spite of recent improved methods of control of herds and milk production continue to be found in a certain percentage of milk samples.

While the great bulk of the milk produced on the many farms in your District is contracted to companies for distribution to London and other large towns, and whose practice it is to ensure safety to their customers by pasteurisation, milk is very largely, almost entirely, purveyed to consumers throughout your District in the raw state, and however cleanly it may have been produced no possible guarantee can be given as to its continuous certain freedom from possible contamination by dangerous micro-organisms. When it is recalled that recently it has become the practice to encourage widely the consumption of milk by children in schools, and that in your area some hundreds of children daily consume raw milk in the schools, none of which is pasteurised, and this in addition to the normal extensive consumption of milk by your inhabitants who number close upon nineteen thousand persons, and very few of whom consume pasteurised milk, it will be realised how large a population is at risk.

It is significant that in your District no purveyor has yet applied for a Licence for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk, from which fact, by comparison with neighbouring Districts, one conclusion alone can be drawn, and this is that your inhabitants, and particularly parents of children, are as yet not awake to the abiding danger accruing from consumption of raw, even though cleanly produced, milk. Under the present administrative system, since as yet no Act of Parliament exists to enforce pasteurisation, even of milk supplied in schools, the most and possibly the only effective way in which purveyors can be persuaded to supply really safe milk, that is pasteurised milk, is by a demand for this arising among their customers.

I wish to emphasise that further definite improvement has taken place during the year in the general cleanliness of farms and dairies and in methods of milk production, and there is no question but that the great majority of those concerned in the dairy industry are sparing no effort to provide clean and in many cases tubercle-free milk. This is eminently satisfactory and highly creditable; I am, however, definitely of the opinion that however clean the milk safety alone can be ensured by pasteurisation.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

I am indebted to the Manager and Branch Manager respectively of the Bournemouth Employment Exchange and the Branch Employment Office, Fordingbridge, Ministry of Labour, for particulars for the year 1937 of the extent of unemployment in your District.

The percentage of unemployment of the Insured population in the Ringwood area was approximately as follows for the four quarters of the year. First quarter, 5·8 per cent.; second quarter, 3·1 per cent.; third quarter, 5·2 per cent.; and fourth quarter, 10·7 per cent. Approximately 40 per cent. of unemployed male

workers were engaged in the building and decorative trades. In the Fordingbridge area the highest total during the year was reached on the 27th December, being 99 men, 1 boy, 3 women and 1 girl; and the lowest on the 5th July, being 27 men and 5 women.

The magnitude of unemployment in the District per capita of the population is not excessive, and is mostly confined to those occupations in which seasonal unemployment is unfortunately under present economic administration to a regrettable extent inherent.

JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT.

Within the scope of the School Medical Service, special provision is made by the County Medical Officer for periodical medical inspection of all children attending public elementary schools who are employed in your District. Byelaws made by the Hampshire County Council in pursuance of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, enact that no child shall be employed under the age of twelve years, and that no child shall be employed for more than two hours on any day on which the child must attend school, while regulations control the conditions, nature, and hours of employment, and prohibit children being engaged in certain trades and occupations.

These inspections are carried out with a view to ascertaining that employment shall not be detrimental to the health of the child, and written certificates upon each case are forwarded to the County Medical Officer. The principal forms of employment are as errand boys, for paper rounds, and for light garden work.

SCHOOLS AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Medical Inspection of children in the Schools is carried out by the Staff of the County Medical Officer. This inspection in the schools within your District has been carried out by Dr. A. A. Cockayne, Assistant County Medical Officer, and by myself in my capacity as part-time Assistant County Medical Officer. The general health of scholars in the schools has been satisfactory, and the provisions made under the Milk Marketing Board Scheme for the supply of milk to school children has been satisfactory. Special attention has been given to the sanitation of schools.

Under the administration and control of the County Medical Officer the following Welfare Clinics are held monthly in your area :—

Ringwood—

Antenatal Clinic—1st Monday, 2 p.m.

Infant Welfare Clinic—2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 2-30 p.m.

Toddlers' Clinic—once in three months, Wednesdays, 2-30 p.m.

Fordingbridge—

Infant Welfare Clinic—every Friday, 2-30 p.m.

Tuberculosis Clinic—1st Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Breamore—

Infant Welfare Clinic—2nd Thursday, 2-30 p.m.

In addition to these, Ophthalmic and Dental Clinics are frequently held at all these Centres.

An Orthopædic Clinic, attended by an Orthopædic Surgeon, is held on the 1st Wednesday in each month at 9-30 a.m., at the Millhams Street Welfare Centre, Christchurch, at which children resident in the Rural District are seen. Classes for remedial exercises and massage are also held at this Clinic weekly for cases referred thereto by the Orthopædic Surgeon.

There is also an Infant Welfare Clinic held at Burley and attended by Dr. H. A. F. Wilson once a month.

BIRTH CONTROL.

While no Birth Control Clinic exists in your District, arrangements have been made whereby, on the recommendation of their medical attendants on grounds of health, expert advice and suitable treatment can be obtained by married women at the Married Women's Advisory Clinic, established by voluntary effort at Salisbury, which is attended by a specially qualified lady-doctor. In certain necessitous cases grants are made towards expenses by the County Council.

HOSPITAL SERVICES, ETC.

Infectious Diseases.

On the 31st March, 1937, the agreement made with the Corporation of Poole, whereby cases from the southern area of your District were admitted to the Alderney Isolation Hospital, Poole, terminated. Under an Agreement with the Salisbury and District Joint Isolation Hospital Committee, cases of Infectious Diseases occurring in all parts of your District are now admitted to this Hospital.

The arrangements made by me during 1933 for the availability of supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin for the use of medical practitioners in all parts of the District have been continued.

No scheme as yet exists in your District for Diphtheria Immunisation.

General Medical and Surgical Cases.

Cases are sent by Medical Practitioners to the General Hospital, Salisbury; to the Royal Victoria and West Hants Hospital, Bournemouth; and to the Southampton Hospital.

There is a well-equipped Cottage Hospital at Fordingbridge (six beds).

Public Assistance.

Fordingbridge Infirmary, and Fairmile House Infirmary, Christchurch.

Ambulance Facilities.

For Infectious Cases—Salisbury Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

For Non-infectious Cases and Accidents and Medical Emergencies—Voluntary Red Cross Ambulance, Christchurch, and Salisbury Ambulance.

Nursing in the Home is provided by the Hants County Nursing Association. There are also several Private Nursing Homes in the District and vicinity.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

All Slaughterhouses have been visited by your Chief Sanitary Inspector, and it was found that the Humane Killer was being used in all cases where required. All slaughtermen are licensed.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, Notification of Births Act, Maternity and Child Welfare Acts, Midwives Act, and Venereal Diseases Act, 1917, are administered by the County Council.

LOCAL LEGISLATION, ETC.

See Schedule at end.

GENERAL.

During 1937 general progress in all matters affecting the good sanitation and welfare of your District has been well maintained. Improvements for the water supplies of the northern and more outlying parts of your District, and the scheme for main sewerage for the Fordingbridge area which you have in hand will, so soon as carried out, be of material and lasting

benefit to your inhabitants. I regard the latter as not only desirable but as essential for reasons which I have detailed in this Report.

I have again stressed the importance of safe milk supply, which can alone be effected by pasteurisation, and I would ask that every endeavour be made by your Council to encourage as far as possible a universal demand for safe milk.

Matters of housing will continue to claim your very special attention, and I look forward with confidence to your effecting in the near future the elimination or remedying of the undesirable dwellings which still remain and do not conform with modern standards of habitability.

Allow me again to express to your Council and its Officers my appreciation of help and consideration extended to me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. CONYERS MORRELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

8th June, 1938.

Samples taken during the year ended 31st December, 1937, in the Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge.

Sample No.			Proceedings taken
6345	New Milk	22.7°/o deficient in fat	Yes, but case dismissed
6346	" "	34.3°/o " "	
6372	" "	15.3°/o " "	No
6374	" "	8.0°/o of excess water	Yes, but case dismissed

County Medical Officer.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year
1937, for the Rural District Council of Ringwood and
Fordingbridge,

on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection
with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES
including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections 2	Written Notices 3	Occupiers prosecuted. 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	35		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	95		
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises)	Nil		
Total	130	Nil	Nil

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.**

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prose- cutions were instituted. 5
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of cleanliness	8	8		
Want of ventilation	0	0		
Overcrowding	0	0		
Want of drainage of floors ...	0	0		
Other nuisances	2	2		
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	1	1		
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2		
Not separate for sexes ...	0	0		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	0	0		
Other offences	0	0		
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921)).				
Total	13	13	Nil	Nil

OUTWORK in unwholesome premises, section 108 Nil.

C. CONYERS MORRELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

R. A. SKELTON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1938.

Local Legislation.

APPLICABLE TO THE WHOLE RURAL DISTRICT :—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875—

- Sec. 171 (2) The Provision of the Towns Police Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to fires.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT ACT), 1890—

- Sec. 28. Extension of Secs. 116 to 119 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925—

- Sec. 14. Public drinking fountains, seats, etc., in streets.
 Sec. 23. Lopping trees overhanging highways.
 Sec. 25. Restrictions on placing rails, beams, etc., over streets.
 Sec. 33. Power to prescribe improvement lines for widening streets.

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACT, 1889-1923.—(The whole Acts).

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.—Extension of the provisions of Section 1 of the Act to Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams and Lambs.

ADDITIONAL POWERS APPLICABLE TO THE CONTRIBUTORY PLACE OF RINGWOOD :—

- Sec. 160 of the Public Health Act, 1875, so far as it incorporates the provisions of the Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to the numbering of houses.

- Sec. 19 of the Public Health Act, 1925, with respect to the indication of the names of streets.

ADDITIONAL POWERS APPLICABLE TO THE CONTRIBUTORY PLACE OF HURN :—

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT ACT), 1907—

- Sections 15 and 16 (in so far as they do not relate to buildings) and Sections 17, 18, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33 (as amended by the Public Health Act, 1936), 53 and 54.

N.B.—The above provisions are additional to the general Statutory powers of a Rural Authority.

Byelaws in Force.

APPLICABLE TO THE WHOLE RURAL DISTRICT :—

NEW BUILDINGS, ETC.—

Passed 27th July, 1934. Confirmed 18th September, 1934. Operative from 1st November, 1934.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.—

Passed 29th June, 1934. Confirmed 23rd August, 1934. Operative from 1st October, 1934.

NUISANCES, ETC.

Passed 26th June, 1936. Confirmed 4th August, 1936. Operative from 1st October, 1936.

NEW STREETS, ETC.—

Passed 26th June, 1936. Confirmed 9th November, 1937. Operative from 1st December, 1937.

APPLICABLE ONLY TO THAT PART OF THE RURAL DISTRICT FORMERLY IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF CHRISTCHURCH (as constituted prior to 1st April, 1932) :—

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS—

Passed 4th September, 1925. Confirmed 20th January, 1926. So far as they are not affected by the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

APPLICABLE ONLY TO THAT PART OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COMPRISING THE FORMER RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD (as constituted prior to 1st April, 1932) :—

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS—

Passed 15th October, 1928. Confirmed 15th January, 1929. So far as they are not affected by the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

